



Leadership Team
Information Package

Ridge Kids Leadership Team

Information Package

Kids programs are great but people are better. The most significant way to influence kids is through the key people in their lives. Our hope is that the children's ministry program will provide a means by which students can connect with caring adults and mentors. The end we are looking towards is that by these connections, the students will feel welcome, accepted, and loved, not only by us, and our church, but also by Christ. The whole purpose of Ridge Kids is discipleship – drawing students closer to Christ.



We hope to connect children and their families with caring people like yourself who are willing to walk alongside them, to cheer them on, and to even challenge them as they walk through life and work out their faith.

Children will need adults who will:

- Keep them safe
- Love God and live for him
- Be interested in their lives
- Take initiative to spend time with them
- Pray for them
- Be real
- Be encouraging
- Believe in them
- Laugh
- Go to “their world”
- Remember their names and care for them
- Share God’s love through personal experience
- Be consistent
- Be patient
- Enjoy life

How to be involved in children’s lives

It’s important that we are on the same page. For us to be effective in reaching students together, we need you to:

1. **Understand the purpose and vision for our ministry.** Take a moment to look at the values and goals that make our ministry effective for reaching students and their families.
2. **Commit to the program.** Consider how and where you would like to serve children and their families. We have many different areas that you can serve and minister to them.
3. **Grow and thrive as a disciple and a leader.** Develop your relationship with Christ on an ongoing basis and work out continually your personal ministry (how you serve), which will ultimately influence and impact students and their families.

Purpose and Shared Values of Ridge Kids

The purpose of Ridge Kids is simple – We want to create disciple who make disciples. We want to take kids who don't have a relationship with Jesus or those who have a nominal relationship with Him, and all those in between, and bring them into a deep, fulfilling life for Christ.

This is the goal of Ridge Kids. We want to take kids who come and have no idea who God is and help them to find out who He is and to serve him. By the end of their time with us, they should be leading or serving in some capacity within the church, and be investing in someone. This is what Discipleship is about. It is done through community. Disciples making disciples.

What am I committing to?

Expectations and clear communication are one of the most vital things in making things run smoothly. When committing to Ridge Kids, you are committing to:

- **Consistent attendance at Church**
 - We ask that you arrive at least 15 minutes before church and stay at least 15 minutes after it finishes. The time before and after church is key relationship building time. Although the program “officially” begins at the dismissal in the service, we want to encourage connecting before church begins. After church, the same is true. If the leaders cannot make attending church every week a priority, the children **NEVER** will.
- **Talk vertically, not horizontally**
 - This is an idea that is based on a principle borrowed from Wendy's. If you have a problem with someone, talk with them directly, not to others. This will save a lot of conflict and will help to keep communication clear. If you have a problem or concern, feel free to bring it to Pastor Ryan and it can be appropriately addressed.
- **Attendance to the Bi-Annual Ridge Kids Training Meeting**
 - Here you will be resourced, trained, and have opportunities to provide feedback, as well as joining in the planning process
- **Your growth as a person, and a leader**

Our goal is to help leaders move from program-oriented ministry (dependent on the program) to self-directed ministry (independent ministry). Some helpful points to help you in this process are:

- **Time:** Be patient. Feeling comfortable and connecting with students takes time.
- **Be Present:** Going to special events and camps will help intensify and solidify your relationships with kids. Connect their faith to a community by showing up predictably, mentally, and randomly.
- **Make it Personal:** The more you invest, the more you will get out of it. Your relationships will grow deeper as you invest your time. Inspire their faith by your example by living in community, setting priorities, and being real.
- **Create a Safe Place:** Clarify their faith as they grow by leading the group, respecting the process, and guarding the heart.

- **Move Them Out:** Engage their faith in a bigger story by moving them to someone else, moving them to be the church, and moving them to what's next.

How to Become a Ridge Kids Leader

1. **Express Interest** – You may have an interest in serving God through service to students and their families, but you may also have no idea where to begin. We've all been there. There is no perfect mold, but there is a right heart: one of love for God, and of course love for people. Take the next step and prayerfully consider serving. Fill out a blue "Serve Others" card found in the pews.
2. **Initial Contact by Church Staff** – If we don't already know each other, this is an opportunity for us to do just that. Here's where we will be able to hear more about your desire to be involved in ministry to students and their families, and arrange for you to visit and observe what we do for students and their families.
3. **Receive Ridge Kids Ministry Material (This Package)** – This application and information package is just a brief overview of Ridge Kids. Although we've done our best to explain what we do, the best way to get a good handle on what happens is to observe as program as it happens.
4. **Observe Program** – Before you fill out the application, we encourage you to observe a program. You'll be able to get a good feel of what we do without expectations or responsibilities placed on you. You'll have a chance to meet students, other staff and leaders, and consider any questions for a future meeting. Don't worry if you feel slightly out of place during this time. It is natural to feel uncomfortable as students ordinarily won't go out of their way to make you feel welcome until you know them.
5. **Complete the Application Package** – This application package was designed to obtain appropriate information for our screening process. In addition to this application, you will need to do a criminal record and vulnerable sector check. These forms are personalized, and can be picked up from Pastor Ryan. You will also need to read and sign the child protection policy.
6. **Interview with Family Life Pastor** – This is your opportunity to bring any questions you might have to the table, talk about your spiritual journey, highlight your gifts and desires for working in children's ministry. At this point we'll discuss more specifically where and what would be a good fit for you in our children's ministry program.
7. **Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment** – Take time to pray and think through this commitment. We encourage you to seek the counsel of family and/or friends regarding your commitment as well.
8. **Return the Signed Commitment Sheet** – After you've decided you'd like to make a commitment, sign the commitment sheet and return it to Pastor Ryan.
9. **Begin Ministry** – We will discuss the beginning date of your involvement in ministry once you've completed and turned in the signed commitment sheet. This date may vary depending on your intended involvement.
10. **Evaluation Meeting** – After a month or so of serving, we will meet to discuss how things have gone so far. This will be an opportunity to discuss your feelings and perceptions regarding your involvement, identify any challenges or concerns, and work toward ensuring that you are in the right place to thrive as a Ridge Kids leader. We will continue to evaluate throughout the year, and adjust your role as need to better fit your style, gifting's, personality, and strengths.

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Application



Thank you for your interest in serving in Children's Ministry at The Ridge Church. In addition to this application, you will so need a Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector check from the RCMP. Please print on this form for clarity of reading. For additional room, attach a sheet of paper and say which question the answer is for.

General Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I want to serve in: Jr Ridge Kids (Newborn to Kindergarten)

 Ridge Kids (Grade 1-5)

Work Status

Full-time Part-Time Student Other

Marital Status

Single Married Divorced

Education

High School: _____ Year Graduated: _____

College: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Degree: _____

Other Education (first aid, etc): _____

Church Experience

How long have you attended The Ridge Church?

Are you a member? Yes No

Do you attend the Sunday Morning gathering weekly? Yes No

List the date and activities of other ministry experiences you have had at The Ridge Church and the reason for ending that ministry.

Date Started	Ministry/Activity	Date Ended	Reason

Describe any other ministry or church experiences at The Ridge Church or other churches you've been involved in:

What spiritual gifts and/or strengths do you feel you have, and how would you like to use them in children's ministry?

Why do you want to be involved in children's ministry?

What are some of your expectations of the children's ministry staff?

How often can you serve?

Personal and Spiritual History

How did you come to know Christ? When did this happen?

Describe a significant event in your life that has impacted you spiritually.

Describe three major ways in which you have grown in your spiritual journey since you became a Christian.

How would you describe your spiritual journey now?

Do you have a person or group of people who actively support and challenge you in your walk with Christ?

Ridge Kids Leadership Commitments



I choose to commit to the following:

1. I acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ in my life and have a personal relationship with him.
2. I am committed toward growing and maturing my relationship with God through intentional personal discipleship, active attendance at church, and involvement in accountable relationships.
3. I am committed to choices and a lifestyle that are both Godly and “above reproach”, knowing that my lifestyle is a model for others
4. I will faithfully attend the leadership meetings.
5. I will make a committed attempt to help find at least one other new leader for our growing need in children’s ministry.
6. I understand the purpose, mission, strategy, and goals of the Children’s ministry and commit to help fulfil the purposes and care for the students and their families that God brings into the ministry
7. Because I am making a significant commitment and my presence is important, I agree to be consistent and on-time to the events and programming
8. I agree to arrive to my ministry commitment on-time and prepared.
9. I have read and agree to abide by the Child Protection Policy.

Signature

Date